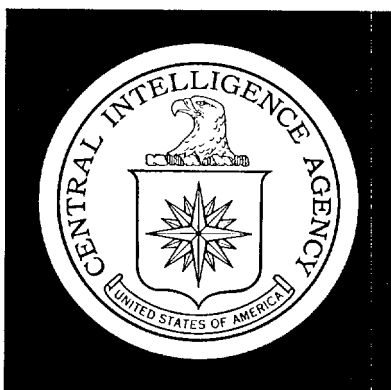


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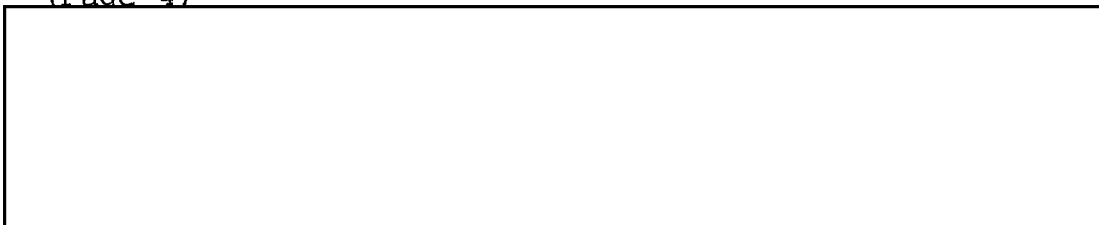
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CHILE: Communists and Socialists continue to receive most of the influential posts in the Allende government.

The directors of such crucial economic agencies as the presidential planning office, the price control agency, the national railways, and the state bank are economists and technicians who have had ties with or have been advisers to Fidel Castro. In agencies like the vital national development corporation, where non-Marxists were given the top jobs, lesser but nevertheless critical posts have gone to men committed to a Cuban- or Soviet-style state. The government's already pervasive role in the country's economy gives these officials power far beyond that indicated by their job titles.

The resumption of relations with Cuba on 12 November has elicited very little criticism in Chile, and efforts are being made to expand them. The head of the conservative farmer owners' organization will travel to Cuba next week to explore the possibility of tripling trade next year to \$30 million. In addition, the state-owned airline, LAN-Chile, is studying the possibility of adding Havana as a stop on its Santiago to the US route, and of a European flight to include Havana and Prague.

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ITALY: Center and conservative political leaders are citing a number of events as evidencing an improvement in the Communists' national political position.

The number of Communist Party (PCI) - Socialist Party (PSI) coalitions has risen on the municipal level this year in the wake of local elections last June, as have the number of Christian Democratic - PSI coalitions to the exclusion of the two smaller center-left parties. The formation of both types of coalitions has been strongly opposed by more conservative elements in the government and especially by the two small parties. On the national level the PCI has attempted to enlarge its influence in the parliamentary process by assuming the role of the constructive opposition in its relationships with the non-Communists.

Socialist Vice Premier De Martino contributed substantially to the concern of center and conservative politicians when he conceded last month that though the present government is working, his party should pursue its traditional objective of creating, as a future alternative, a "new left," which would include a reformed Communist Party. The Communist parliamentary leader in turn shortly thereafter publicly emphasized that his party is seeking "a more advanced political equilibrium." A further factor in rising concern is the courting of the Communists by presidential aspirants such as Senate President Fanfani, Foreign Minister Moro, and De Martino, who hope for Communist help to win the presidential election in 1971.

Top PCI leaders disagree, as they have for some time, about which political parties would be acceptable coalition partners and about how fast the party should push for acceptance as a government party. Deputy secretary general Berlinguer recently

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said that the PCI rejects any idea of taking part in center-left government or playing a subordinate role but wants a radical change in political direction and the construction of a left-oriented alternative to the present government. However, not all PCI leaders agree with him. [REDACTED]

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NOTE

SYRIA: Defense Minister Asad, after moving cautiously for several days, has named himself temporary secretary general of the Syrian Baath Party regional command. He has also appointed a political unknown, Ahmad al-Khatib, as figurehead chief of state, and brought into the provisional party leadership a dozen other of his supporters. According to press reports, many of the ousted leaders will be exiled to other Middle Eastern countries. Apparently there has been no significant public reaction to Asad's move for power. [REDACTED]

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